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Tiara Air Aruba signs on as official airline of AIS/Fashion Week 2012

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Tiara Air Aruba was proud to announce their official sponsorship of the upcoming 2nd edition of ARUBA IN STYLE fashion week 2012, from November 1 to 4. AIS/Fashion Week co-founder Eva Wever and Tiara Air Aruba Marketing Manager Malinda Hassel signed the agreement at the Tiara Air head offices on Friday, October 12.

Tiara Air Aruba will be transport the many international designers, models and media which will be attending the glamorous event. Participating VIP's will be arriving from Colombia, Venezuela and Curacao shortly, via Tiara Air



AIS Eva Wever and TIARA AIR Sales mgr Malinda Hassel

Just in time for the AIS 2012, Tiara Air will be opening up jet service on October 25 to Armenia and Medellin, Colombia, Mondays and Thursdays. The latter is recognized as a fashion center of the country, where many exclusive quality garments and accessories are manufactured. The city is host to a number of in-

ternationally recognized design houses.

Both Ms. Wever and Hassel expressed the mutual satisfaction of AIS 2012 and Tiara Air Aruba with the partnership for the fashion week. "We at Tiara Air are very happy to be able to contribute to another successful and stylish event," commented Ms. Hassel.

by Rosalie Klein

Tropical Storm Rafael heads toward **Bermuda**

Tropical Storm Rafael unleashed heavy rain and powerful gusts on the Leeward Islands yesterday and could turn into a hurricane by today, forecasters said.

With sustained winds of 60 mph, Rafael could get even stronger as it bears down on several islands popular with tourists.

Yesterday Rafael was centered about 170 miles (275 km) northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The storm was moving northnorthwest at 12 mph (19 kph) and was expected to turn



On Bay Road in Basseterre, St. Kitts, two taxis were washed down to the shoreline when they tried to cross the flooded road

northward by today.

A projection map shows

Rafael headed toward Bermuda later this week.

Officials there issued a tropical storm watch Sunday and told residents that they expected the storm to impact the British territory on Tuesday.

Tropical storm warnings that had been in effect for the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, St. Marten, Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts and Guadeloupe were discontinued yesterday morning.

Forecasters expect Rafael to leave between 4 to 6 inches of rain over the Lesser Antilles and Virgin Islands, with some pockets getting as much as 10 inches







Aruba/Caribbean Linked program features launch of newest ARC Magazine



Holly Bynoe and new issue of ARC with king to local Elvis Lopez

Ateliers '89, Aruba's cultural center for education and promotion of the arts, hosted Linked/Caribbean Aruba Linked, from Friday, October 12 and finishing today. Ateliers '89 Director Elvis Lopez welcomed a cadre of distinguished art experts for the four days of presentations, including Holly Bynoe, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the co-founder and editor of ARC magazine.

She joined other regional art luminaries John Cox from the Bahamas and Annalee Davis of Barbados along with Paco Barragan of Spain and Rocio

Al-Aranda varado from El Barrio Museum in New

York, in spea-

artists and cul-

tural figures. The dilemma of encouraging young artists within communities and cultures that have not the funds to support national programs of development, often stymies organizations such as Ateliers '89. Since 2007, the center has industriously pursued creating opportunities for young Aruban artists "to follow their dreams through exchanges where they can develop their own work through the artist in residence." Elvis Lopez brings in noted artists and instructors from Europe and the U.S. to conduct

Francisco Pardo and Ryan Oduber featured in ARC

classes in various disciplines. The Aruba Linked program

ends this evening at 7:00 PM with a panel discussion "Building a Cultural Industry in the Caribbean," moderated by Elvis Lopez and Glenn Thode, Dean of the University of

A highlight of the various presentations over the weekend was the launch of issue #6 of ARC Magazine on Saturday evening, by Ms. Bynoe. The publication is dedicated to showcasing emerging and established artists from all corners of the Caribbean. The new issue contains the work of 35 artists and 13 writers. Included for the first time are two artists from Aruba, Francisco Pardo and Ryan Oduber. Their video works have won prizes at the Aruba International Film Festival and other festivals around the region. The article is focused on the ascendancy of experimental film as an art form

Ms. Bynoe has traveled extensively through the Caribbean in editing and publishing the very beautiful and stimulating ARC magazines. "In my communication with various artists and mentors over the past year," she told the audience, "I have been offered a new understanding of the transformative and social function of art. That mentoring has challenged by understanding of the



ARC article showcasing Aruban experimental film

function and place for work emerging out of the Caribbean. In a recent blog entry, Nayland Blake, a contemporary artist practicing out of NYC, and one of my mentors, summed up in sincere simplicity the impetus of what we are seeking to accomplish with ARC...He stated, "One of the great gifts we can give each other is the gift of regard and recognition, not in the award show sense of accolades, but in the sense of seeing and acknowledging what we see in each other.'

"This declaration is one that defines why we exist in the cultural sphere of the Caribbean. Not to make large dents, but to fill an extremely impoverished gap that has existed for years. We are happy to report that after a year and a half, we are beginning to see the surface of the bottom, and maybe in that darkness and infinitesimal protruding light."

ARC is a collaboration of noted writers and intellectuals analyzing the visual works of emerging and established artists, stimulating in both presentation and content. It sells for \$25 and will be available at tonight's event, along with past issues. They can also be purchased through the ARC website: http://arcthemagazine. com/arc.

"The main objective now of Caribbean contemporary art is to develop a new language that

is definitely multicultural, intergenerational inclusive of codes and references that borrow from tradition to extend the language and nuance of our new Caribbean identities." concluded Ms. Bynoe. "It becomes the last place for us to tell the truth about humanity and our times.'

Aruba/Caribbean The Linked event was also punctuated by the opening of the Youth Biennale of Ateliers '89 last night. It includes works by 10 emerging young Aruban artists, plus other from Holland and Barbados and will remain on display until the results of the next workshop fill the exposition room.

Ateliers '89 is located at Dominicanessenstr 34 in Oranjestad. For more information on tonight's program, conducted in English, and their continuing programs and workshops, call 588-5996 or visit their website www.Ateliers89.com

by Rosalie Klein



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Auxiliary government buildings to become multifunctional centers

NOORD -- After an extensive evaluation which included meetings in the barrios, surveys and meetings with young people and focus group gatherings in auxiliary government offices, the government has decided to revamp most of the Auxiliary Government Offices (Hulpbestuurskantoor) and turn them into multifunctional centers for the community.

Today these Auxiliary Government Offices are where citizens meet to pay utility bills, and receive other government services which previously were available only at the head office in the city. It has been observed that the auxiliary offices in Noord, Paradera, Santa Cruz, Savaneta and San Nicolas are too limited for the large number of people who use their services.

Citizens meet at these offices and interchange ideas and conversation; hence these offices are more than just places to pay bills, etc. It is for this reason that the idea was born to make them multifunctional cites. For example, when a mother goes to pay utility bills, the children should be able to



go to a small library there, or an internet facility or a place where they could do school work.

They also thought of incorporating important government departments such as AZV or Social Affairs.

The government intends to build 5 multifunctional accommodations around the island. The offices in Noord, Paradera, Santa Cruz and Savaneta will be totally new edifices simply because they don't have the space for expansion to offer the additional services they want to add. The San Nicolas building has recently been renovated and has ample space for expansion

hence will not be rebuilt.

Five architects have been chosen. They have attempted to choose architects who also have some relationship with the barrio. The interchange with the youth and others in the barrio have led to the creation of a concept that would provide facilities for practicing music and art, a stage where young people can present their creations to their barrio, etc.

These buildings will be centers equipped to contribute to improve the quality of life in the barrios according to the Prime Minister. Each one of these facilities will be dedicated to a prominent citizen in the barrio.



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The Seventeenth Stair

Continued

But Daniel never did explain and no amount of research through the Dutch banking officials or into Daniel's past turned up the funds. In return for his silence, he would serve ten years hard time. Prison is a place like no other. The noise never stops and lights and hollering go on 24/7. Guards are

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often mean and inmates are always meaner. Its always either far too cold or too hot. Because Daniel was young, handsome and masculine and physically tough from years of youth spent tying and heaving bales of hay on his parents' farmland in Nebraska, he was often targeted for bullying and

Skirbi un carta tocante pakico awa ta valioso.

had to prove himself constantly. Many nights as he lay bleeding, cut and bruised on the prison cot, he thought of Aruba and the seventeenth stair at Mt. Hooiberg and sometimes the treasure that awaited him was the only thing that kept him sane and alive. He did not hear from his family nor any

Antraco Aruba Group

word from Maggie during the entire time.

On his day of release, Daniel wasted no time on either a drink, a woman or even revenge. Heedless of probationary restrictions, he made his way to Miami International and the locker with his small reserve of cash and a passport with ID's. He flew to Aruba and found an inexpensive bed and breakfast inn near the ocean and within biking distance of Mt. Hooiberg. The next day he rented a bicycle and rode to find his treasure hidden under the seventeenth stair step. On arrival, he found a gaggle of tour buses around the stairway side of the hill and after navigating through them was stunned to find a new stairway had been built into the hill with resting places consisting of canopies and decks constructed for the tourists, as Aruba had become a popular vacation destination. The old stairway structure was completely gone and with it, all Daniel's hopes and dreams. He stood perfectly still for a very long time as day began to turn to dusk.

"What's the matter 'Merican Man? You look like you lose your best friend.""

Daniel turned to see a pretty blond woman, with light coffee colored skin showing a mixed descent, wearing a hat, and a pair of Ray-Bans. She had a green iguana draped around her neck and bare shoulders, and wore a sundress. She was leaning casually against a small car.

"Yes," he answered, "I did lose my best friend."

She studied him for a time and commented, "Ja, you need a new best friend then."

Her name was Lisbeth Waasdorp and it was not long before Daniel became lost in her deep blue eyes, in her feminine ways, her goodness, her exotic tales of Aruba and island life, her warmth, her laugh, her large and loving extended family. They were together con-

stantly.

He told her about his past, and time spent in prison.

"Ja Danny," she said, "you stay wis me here, my family loves you, I love you, you no go away, no do those bad things anymore." And when she wrapped him in her arms, he knew the past was over.

It came one day when Lisbeth's father wanted to confer with Daniel privately.

"I want you marry wis my daughter Danny," he said. "You can be citizen here if you marry wis her, and I make you both very happy wis gift to start your lives." The old man, wrinkled and stooped, peered at Daniel intently. "I know you have feelings for each odder."

Feelings, Daniel thought. Been so long since I have had those. She is like water in the desert to me.

"Big Papi", Daniel said, "don't lean back in your chair, there's a scorpion on the wall behind you."

"A-c-h-h, no matter, I don't worry about them", the old man answered. "So many years, digging, building, working, they can do nossing more to me."

Daniel and Lisbeth were married a few months later in a happy family ceremony. She told him that the wedding gift from her beloved father was a large amount of money placed into their joint account.

"How did your father come by that much money Lisbeth, I am very surprised" Daniel asked. "I thought he was just a working guy getting by a little at a time."

"Ja, Danny," she answered, "one day, he told me, he was working building zomzing and found many U.S. Dollars under zom steps. No tell nobody, best say nossing to nobody."

Daniel looked at her for a long time.

"Yes," he said, "best to say nothing".

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Crystal Casino announces grand campaign



Once again, the Crystal & Seaport Casinos are embarking on their Grand Island Xtravaganza campaign, giving their patrons the opportunity to win fabulous prizes. Among the many prizes are:

1st prize – a brand new Hyundai Sonata automobile

2nd prize – a cruise trip for 2 including airfare

3rd prize – trip to New York for 2

4th prize – trip to Curacao for 2

5th prize - \$1000 gift certificate Renaissance Mall & Market Place shopping

6th prize – 2 couple Royal

Romance (dinner at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop Restaurant + massage at Okeanos Spa

7th prize – 2 couple Island Xtravaganza lunch at Aquarius Restaurant & Massage at Okeanos Spa

8th prize – Okeanos Spa Couples Massage.

Marketing coordinator of Crystal & Seaport Casinos, Tirzane Williams shared that this is the 4th year that they are holding this grand campaign and that it is organized by both the Renaissance Mall & Market Place and the Renaissance Curacao.

Participation is easy. For

every 25 points accumulated on the Crystal & Seaport Casino membership card, "The Card" players will receive a coupon in the Players Center. Or, for every purchase of Afls.25 at the Renaissance Mall & Market Place, The Cinemas, Starbucks, Aquarius or L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House, or at Okeanos Spa. Show your sales purchase receipt at the Island Xtravaganza booth and collect your coupon. Fill out the coupon and deposit this in the tombola located inside the Renaissance Mall or in the Crystal or Seaport Casino.

Crystal and Seaport Casinos will soon issue their Island Xtravanganza Weekly Calendar of Events. Customers may collect free promotional Tshirts in order to participate in the different promotions going on, such as: the X3The Points, Double Cash back, \$1000 Free Play cash, or Slot Tournaments and much more.

Visit the Crystal & Seaport Casino face book page to keep abreast of what is going on in the Island Xtravanganza campaign, or call 583-6000 ext 6318 – ext 6437.

Parliamentarian gets his "Smartcard" from Arubus

ORANJESTAD -Last week, Parliamentarian Donny
Rasmijn went to
Arubus to collect his
new "Smartcard"
which was submitted
to him by Arubus director Theo Croes.

Donny Croes apparently has always promoted our public transport system and is himself an occasional traveler on the bus. Public transport reduces the amount of vehicles on our roads;

it is more economical and good for the environment.

For many years Arubus has been going through serious financial difficulties and have been receiving subsidy in the amount of 6 million Aruban florins per year from the government. The amount of passengers using the Arubus has increased over the years, but so has the price of diesel fuel.

Many tourists use the public transport because it is less expensive than taxis. According to Rasmijn, "Money of our citizens is being used to subsidize tourists while Arubus is bleeding financially."



With the introduction of the "Smartcard" Arubus can maintain the price for locals while the tourist, who will not have "Smartcards" will pay the normal price. This means that the fare for "Smartcard" holders will be subsidized and those who do not have the card will pay the higher fare.

The Parliamentarian congratulated Arubus and the government of Aruba for the introduction of the "Smartcard" and recommends every citizen to make use of Arubus even if only once in a while. "Be smart; get your "Smartcard"



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Shot Pakistan schoolgirl in 'stable' condition

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - A Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban because she campaigned for the right to education was in a "stable" condition and making steady progress in her recovery, the military said yesterday.

The shooting of 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai has been denounced worldwide and by the Pakistani authorities, who have offered a reward of more than \$100,000 for the capture of her attackers.

She is being treated at the country's top military hospital in Rawalpindi, the twin city of the capital Islamabad, where doctors yesterday removed her ventilator for a "successful" short trial, the military said in a statement, adding it was later reconnected "to avoid patient's fatigue."

A military spokesman earlier in the day said Malala was "making slow and steady progress, which is in keeping with expectations. Recovery from this type of injury is always slow."

No decision has been made on whether to send Malala abroad for treatment, with spokesman Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa telling AFP that doctors were continuing to monitor her condition.

"Pakistan has arranged a specially equipped air ambulance with the UAE, which will be used if the decision to shift her abroad is taken by the board of doctors," An official in the United Arab Emirates said.

The cold-blooded murder attempt has sickened Pakistan, where Malala came to prominence with a blog for the BBC highlighting atrocities under the Taliban, who terrorised the Swat valley from 2007 until a 2009 army offensive.

Activists say the shooting should be a wake-up call to whose who advocate appeasement with the Taliban. But analysts suspect there will be no significant change in a country that has sponsored radical Islam for decades.

Thousands of people gathered in Karachi for a rally in support of Malala, organised by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) political party.

MQM leader Altaf Hussain called the attack claimed by the Taliban a shameful and cowardly act.

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Obama, Romney bunker down as crucial debate looms

WILLIAMSBURG (AFP) - A different Barack Obama will show up at the next debate with Mitt Romney, aides said yesterday, after the president held a post-mortem of his leaden debut clash with his Republican foe.

Obama bunkered down at a luxury Virginia golf resort prepping for Tuesday's encounter with Romney, which has taken on high significance since the president's first debate performance sent his poll numbers tumbling.

Senior Obama aide David Axelrod said Obama had studied video of the first duel in Denver earlier this month, in which the president appeared disengaged, unenthusiastic and seemed loath to even look directly at Romney.

"Nobody is a harsher critic than the president is of himself," Axelrod told "Fox News Sunday."

"I think he's going to make some adjustments on Tuesday," the adviser said, though joining other aides in declining to offer details on Obama's strategy for the town hall style debate, the middle clash of three encounters between the candidates.

"I think he's going to be aggressive in making the case for his view of where we should go as a country," Axelrod said, adding that Obama would challenge Romney's shifting political positions, unlike in the first debate.

Obama emerged briefly from his hideaway to visit campaign workers at a local office in Virginia, a swing state he won in 2008, and where he and Romney are effectively tied ahead of the November 6 election.

"It is going great," Obama said, when asked by a reporter how his debate prep was coming along.

With his debate team around him, Obama was staging mock showdowns with Senator John Kerry playing the role of Romney, ahead of the second debate at Hofstra University in New York state.

Romney also got in some debate practice yesterday, with aides confident he can put in another strong display, after the first head-to-head confrontation turned around his once trailing campaign.

The Republican, a former governor of Massachusetts, is honing his debate technique with Ohio Senator Rob Portman standing in for the president.

"I think President Obama is going to come out swinging. He's going to have to compensate for a poor first debate," Portman told ABC television's "This Week."

With the candidates off the trail, it was left to high-profile supporters to hurl campaign grenades on the Sunday talkshow circuit. Republicans stepped up their assault on Obama over the raid on the US consulate in Benghazi on September 11 that killed four Americans, including US ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens.

Critics say the administration, which initially called the incident was a "spontaneous" attack but now admits it was an organized terror strike, is trying to deflect blame from Obama ahead of the Nove. 6 election.



PORT AU PRINCE: Anti-government demonstrators marched in the streets of Port-au-Prince yesterday to protest the cost of living in Haiti. The demonstrators are calling for the resignation of President Michel Martelly. They say Martelly has broken a promise to cover the cost of school tuition and has not done enough to alleviate the suffering of the Caribbean nation's poor. (AFP PHOTO)



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Turkey closes airspace to Syrian civilian flights

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkey has banned Syrian civilian flights from its airspace, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said yesterday, after Damascus announced similar restriction on Turkish flights.

"Yesterday (Saturday) we closed our airspace to Syrian civilian flights as we have previously done for Syrian military flights," Davutoglu told journalists.

"As we have established that civilian flights were being misused by the Syrian defence ministry to transport military material, we sent a note yesterday to the Syrian side."

Ankara's move came after the Syrian state news agency SANA reported on Saturday that a flight ban has been imposed on Turkish flights.

Ankara has taken an increasingly strident line towards its neighbour since a shell fired from the Syrian side of the bor-

der killed five Turkish civilians on October 3.

The tit-for-tat flight bans came after Turkey last week intercepted a Syrian Air passenger plane from Moscow on suspicion it was carrying military equipment for the regime.

Ahead of last week's flareups, Syria discussed with Russian diplomats an idea of setting up a joint committee with Turkey to oversee security on their shared border.

To this end, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had pointed out the necessity of "a direct channel of communication" between Turkey and Syria.

But Davutoglu rejected offers of dialogue with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

"The Assad regime should first set up channels of dialogue with its own people," the minister said.

Iran develops plans for deliberate Gulf oil spill

BERLIN (AFP) - Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards have developed plans to damage an oil tanker in the Gulf to create an environmental disaster, German magazine Spiegel reported yesteray.

Citing Western intelligence sources, the weekly said the top-secret plan, codenamed "Dirty Water", is aimed at blocking the oil-rich Gulf to shipping and forcing Western countries to become involved in a huge clean-up operation.

Spiegel said the Revolutionary Guards believe this in turn would prompt Western nations to suspend sanctions imposed over Iran's nuclear program which have started to hit the economy hard this year.

The plan would also "punish" Arab states around the Gulf for their support of the West and Israel.

A clean-up operation could only take place with Iranian technical help, requiring a temporary lifting of sanctions, the plan says, according to Spiegel. The plan were to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who would have the final say on whether to implement it, Spiegel said.



People sunbathe near the capsized cruise liner Costa Concordia near the harbor of Giglio Porto. Francesco Schettino, the captain of Costa Concordia which ran into a rock and capsized off the Italian coast in January, killing up to 32 people, has sued for wrongful dismissal, his lawyer said on Wednesday. Schettino faces charges of multiple manslaughter and abandoning ship and preliminary hearings will begin today.



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Syria army retakes old Aleppo mosque

ALEPPO (AFP) - Syria's army retook control yesterday of a historic mosque in second city Aleppo after fierce clashes with rebels in and around the area, a military official and an observer group said.

"The army has expelled the armed groups from the Umayyad mosque," the official told an AFP journalist.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the reports.

"Regime forces have managed to retake control of the Great Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, following fierce clashes against rebel fighters around the mosque and the withdrawal of the rebel groups from the mosque," the group said.

An AFP correspondent in Aleppo reported that clashes were extremely fierce and that they had moved into areas around the mosque.

Rebels had taken control of parts of the mosque complex

on Saturday. They said regime forces had been based at the mosque since fighting erupted in Aleppo in mid-summer.

"The army was using the mosque as a base, because of its strategic location in the center of the Old City of Aleppo," spokesman for the Revolutionary Council in Aleppo Abu Firas told AFP via the Internet.

"They were prohibiting people from going to pray there," he added. "The rebel Free Syrian Army had orders not to open fire inside the mosque."

Construction of the mosque began in the early 8th century, though it was destroyed by the Mongols and later rebuilt.

Next to it is a library that holds a collection of rare religious books. The nearby souks, or ancient market area, was damaged by a fire that was sparked by clashes late last month.

Experts fear Syria's heritage is under serious threat because of the conflict, with several

historic sites having already suffered damage.

Meanwhile, a monitoring group said dozens of corpses have been found in a hospital morgue in the Syrian province of Damascus, adding the circumstances of the deaths were not immediately clear.

"We know they were shot dead, most likely during clashes with the army," said Syrian Observatory for Human Rights director Rami Abdel Rahman. "Most likely, the corpses belong to rebel fighters, but we cannot currently confirm that."

Amateur video posted on YouTube by activists showed piles of men's bodies in a morgue.

The bodies were found in an area southwest of Damascus between Moadamiyat al-Sham and Daraya, scene of a vicious army assault and battles with rebels, leading up to a massacre of more than 500 people in Daraya at the end of August.



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HEALTH & LIVING

Life after death? Neurosurgeon says he's been there

lengthy interview last year

with Skeptico.com, a science

proof of an afterlife, this is

probably as good as it gets,"

dergone a near-death experi-

ence. Some have written up

their stories on the website of

the Near Death Experience

"If there is evidence and

and spirituality blog.

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Eban Alexander's quick trip to heaven started with a headache.

It was November 2008 and a rare bacterial meningitis was fast on its way to shutting down the University of Virginia neurosurgeon's neocortex -- the part of the brain that deals with sensory perception and conscious thought.

"For seven days, I lay in a deep coma," he recalled. Yet at the same time, Alexander journeyed to another, larger dimension of the universe, a dimension I'd never dreamed existed.'

There he found "big, puffy, pink-white" clouds against a "deep, black-blue sky" and "flocks of transparent, shimmering beings... quite simply different from anything I have known on this planet."

It turns out Alexander was not alone.

His traveling partner in the afterlife was a young woman with high cheekbones, deep blue eyes and "golden brown tresses" who, amid "millions" of butterflies, spoke to him "without using any words."

"You are loved and cherished, dearly, forever," she told the doctor, a father of two with movie star looks. "You have nothing to fear. There is nothing you can do wrong."

Alexander recounts his story, and seeks to explain it,



in "Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife," to be published in the United States on October 23.

His New York publisher failed to respond to interview requests, but an excerpt from "Proof of Heaven" Newsweek magazine has stirred the enduring debate about life after death.

Inevitably, skeptics won-

another.

Research Foundation.

Dean Mobbs, a psychologist at Columbia University in New York who studies neurobiology and fear in humans, did not dismiss Alexander's experience -- but he questioned how it came about.

"I think there's no paranormal component to it," said Mobbs, co-author of a paper in the journal Trends in Cognitive Sciences identifying near-death experiences as "the manifestation of normal brain functions gone awry."

"I believe our brains can concoct vivid experiences particularly in situations of confusion and trauma," he said in an interview. "The brain is trying to reinterpret the world and what's going on."

Mobbs cited research in which, for instance, Swiss neuroscientist Olaf Blanke has artificially induced an out-of-body experience by stimulating the point in the brain where the right temporal and parietal lobes meet.

He also recalled how the body can unleash "a massive dose of opioids" in the face of extreme danger. Opioids generate feelings of euphoria like those described by near-death survivors.

Mobbs also noted that many people who claim to have undergone a near-death experience were never, in fact, near death -- while the majority of those who have died briefly before resuscitation do not recall going anywhere.

In his Newsweek excerpt, Alexander framed his experience in religious terms.

One of the few places he has had no trouble getting his story across is church, where "the colors of the stainedglass windows recalled the luminous beauty of the landscapes I'd seen in the world above," he wrote.

"The plain fact is that the materialist picture of the body and brain as the producers, rather than the vehicles, of human consciousness is doomed."



Wi-Fi Hotspots

Catholic Online, a Webbased Roman Catholic news service, wrote approvingly. By one estimate, three percent of Americans -- more than nine million -- have un-

der if Alexander, who teaches at Harvard Medical School, is going out on a paranormal limb.

"It sounds like he had nothing more than an intense lucid dream," wrote one reader on Newsweek's website. "A personal anecdote is not evidence or proof, as moving as it may be," added

But others stood firmly by Alexander, who has previously spoken of his neardeath experience on science TV programs and in a





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SCI-TECH

Moon water could have solar source: study

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists on Sunday said they had found water molecules in samples of lunar soil, and their unusual signature points to the Sun as the indirect source.

Samples returned to Earth by the Apollo missions carry molecules of water and a precursor of water called hydroxyl, according to their study, published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

Researchers led by Yang Liu at the University of Tennessee theorise that the molecules developed from a reaction between hydrogen ions in the solar wind -- the blast of particles from the Sun -- and a loose surface soil called regolith.

The Sun was formed around 4.5 billion years ago from a cloud of gas, a reaction in which all the deuterium in the nebula reacted with hydrogen to form helium.

As a result, unlike all other objects in the Solar System, the Sun is deuterium-less. Sure enough, the samples were tellingly poor in deuterium, the investigators found.

The tests used infrared spectroscopy to get a chemical signature of regolith grains from the Apollo 11, 16 and 17 missions. Two samples came from plains locations, and one from the lunar highlands.

Although the molecules are dissolved within the grains and do not exist as liquid water, the findings powerfully boost the notion that the Moon is not the utterly arid place it was once thought to be, say the authors.

Since 2009, when NASA found water crystals in a deep crater near Moon's southern pole, evidence has suggested that the Moon was once a pretty moist place and may still have frozen water at depth.

Until now, the source of water in the inner Solar System, the region extending to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, is believed to be comets and other waterrich rocks which whack into planets and other bodies.

So if the study is right, hydrogen from the solar wind could be a second, hitherto unimagined source.

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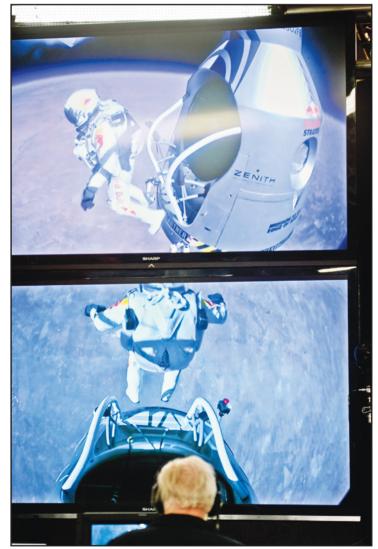
Daredevil Makes Record-Breaking Supersonic Jump

UNITED STATES, Roswell: This picture provided by www.redbullcontentpool.co m shows a mission controller watching pilot Felix Baumgartner of Austria jumping out from the capsule during the final manned flight for Red Bull Stratos in Roswell, New Mexico, on October 14, 2012.

The Austrian daredevil became the first man to break the sound barrier in a record-shattering freefall jump from the edge of space, organizers said. The 43-year-old leapt from a capsule more than 24 miles (39 kilometers) above the Earth, reaching a speed of 833.9 miles per hour (1,135 km/h) before opening his red and white parachute and floating down to the New Mexico desert.

The conversion of 833.9 miles per hour is equal to Mach 1.24 Baumgartner recalled the emotions sweeping through his body when he stepped out of the capsule at an altitude of 128,100 ft (39,045 meters) over the desert in the US state of New Mexico.

"When you're standing there on top of the world you become so humble... The only thing is you want to come back alive," he told reporters in Roswell, where the launch mission was based. Baumgartner



also clarified what he said as he threw himself into the void below -- his words broke up from radio crackle in footage beamed live around the world. He said: "I know the whole

world is all watching now and I wish you could see what I see... Sometimes you have to go up really high to understand how small you are." AFP PHOTO

Amazon says Kindle users are entitled to e-book refunds

CHICAGO - Owners of Amazon.com's Kindle e-readers will receive refunds on past e-book purchases and see e-book prices drop if a judge approves legal settlements with publishers accused of fixing prices, according to the Internet retailer.

Amazon told Kindle own-

ers in emails on Saturday that they could receive a refund of between 30 cents and \$1.32 for e-books they bought between April 2010 and May 2012. The books must have been published by three publishers who have agreed to settle a lawsuit that accused them of inflating e-book

The settlements are subject to court approval, and a hearing is scheduled for February.

If approved, the settlements would also limit the publishers' ability to set future e-book prices, which should lead to lower costs for Kindle users, according to Amazon

















CROSSWOR

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ACROSS

- 1. Doughnut middle
- 5. Gripe about trifles
- 10. Put the king in danger — Gemayel
- 14. Gemayo 15. Opposite of alpha

- 16. Windows symbol 17. Maiden
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CROSSWORD

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- 52. It's right on a
- Spanish map 53. Driver's
- 54. Activity Glutton
 - 56. Shandygaff ingredient

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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Media" More Greek firms eye more to low-tax Switzerland

GENEVA (AFP) - More Greek firms could follow Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling and move their headquarters to Switzerland or elsewhere to avoid higher taxes at home, Swiss media reports said yesterday.

Several heads of Greek companies had made enquiries about the advantages of moving, Sonntag reported, quoting Greek-Swiss Chamber of Commerce president Nikolaos Aggelidakis.

Among the firms that had made enquiries was one listed on the Greek stock exchange and active in the food sector, but Aggelidakis declined to reveal its name.

According to Greek media quoted by the report, other Greek firms moving abroad include top dairy producer the

SATURDAY'S															
Crossword Answer															
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Fage group, which wants to move headquarters to Luxembourg for fiscal reasons.

Coca-Cola Hellenic decided to set up its HQ in the central canton of Zoug, whose fiscal system is the most favorable throughout Switzerland for foreign firms.

The firm is Coca-Cola's second biggest bottler worldwide and serves 28 countries, from Russia to Nigeria.

The Swiss fiscal policy has infuriated Brussels, as the European Union sees businesses

fleeing EU countries to the tax haven of Switzerland.

According to Swiss laws, foreign firms which set up in the country pay 51 billions euros (\$66 billion) less in taxes per year than Swiss companies, said a Swiss television report.

Setting an ultimatum, Brussels has given Switzerland until December 13, when a European summit is held, to present a program aimed at dismantling such privileges which are judged discriminatory and anti-competitive.

Bernanke defends Fed stimulus as China, Brazil raise concerns

TOKYO - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke yesterday said it was far from clear that the U.S. central bank's highly stimulative monetary policy hurts emerging economies, defending a policy raising concerns in China, Russia and Brazil.

In a blunt call for certain emerging economies to allow their currencies to rise, he also said that foreign exchange intervention encouraged destabilizing inflows of foreign capital, but he did not specify China by name.

Bernanke has often defended Fed actions against domestic critics, who argue the policy of keeping interest rates near zero while ramping up asset purchases hurts savers and risks future inflation.

But in the Tokyo speech, Bernanke addressed critics abroad, saying stronger growth in the United States bolsters global prospects as well, countering the likes of Brazil's Finance Minister Guido Mantega who has labeled the Fed's latest stimulus effort "selfish".

Critics say the Fed's unorthodox policies weaken the U.S. dollar and boost the currencies of developing countries, hurting their ability to export.

FINANCE

40% of US firms consider moving factories out of China

SHANGHAI — Forty percent of US importers and manufacturers are thinking of moving their manufacturing bases away from China according to a new business study, reported Taiwan-based daily WantChinaTimes this past week.

This is one of the findings of US-based financial consultancy firm Capital Business Credit (CBC)'s quarterly "Global Retail Manufacturers and Importers Survey," which also revealed that about 26 percent of importers of retail goods surveyed have already moved some of their manufacturing out of China.

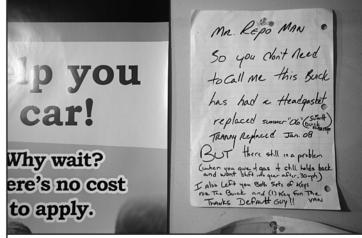
The main reasons cited for this trend are concerns over the quality of goods manufactured in China, the country's rising operating costs, as well as rising competition from other increasingly popular manufacturing countries in Southeast Asia.

"While we at CBC continue

to believe that China will remain a strong manufacturing partner for retail goods importers in the U.S., there is a shift taking place to either low cost manufacturing destinations like Vietnam and Pakistan, or on the opposite end of the spectrum, to cities in the US where importers can keep an eye on quality control and produce goods faster due to the elimination of overseas shipping times," Andrew Tananbaum, executive chairman of CBC said in a statement.

In the report, 31.3 percent of respondents of the study indicated they are moving their manufacturing to the US, followed by 18.8 percent to Vietnam, 10.9 percent to Pakistan, 9.4 percent to Bangladesh and 3.1 percent to the Philippines.

The daily added, without citing names, that the outgoing companies were from labor-intensive industries such as textiles, shoes and toys.



SYRACUSE - A note left by a former car owner hangs on the wall of Advanced Recovery of New York on October 11, 2012 in Syracuse, New York. Recovery agents, knows as 'repo men' work day and night locating and towing vehicles legally repossessed by banks and loan agencies, after the owners stop making payments.

(AFP PHOTO)



Box Office: Taken 2 on Top a Second Straight Weekend

Twentieth Century Fox Film sequel Taken 2 remained in first place at the box office with an estimated \$22.5 million. Directed by Olivier Megaton and starring Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace and Famke Janssen, the \$45 million-budgeted film has earned \$86.8 million domestically. Internationally, Taken 2 added \$41 million for a total of \$132.8 million. The action thriller has made \$219.5 million worldwide and will pass the \$226.8 million worldwide total of Taken in no time.

At the domestic box office, Warner Bros. Pictures thriller **Argo** opened in second place. Directed by Ben Affleck, the film earned an estimated \$20.1 million from 3,232 theaters, an average of \$6,225 per location. Produced for \$44 million.

Third place belonged to Summit's **Sinister**, which collected \$18.3 million from 2,527 theaters. Averaging \$7,222 per theater, director Scott Derrickson's thriller cost just \$3 million to make.

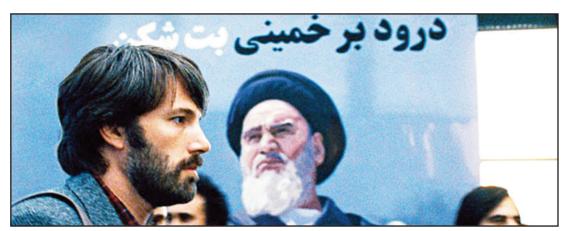
Sony Pictures claimed the next two spots. **Hotel Transylvania** brought in \$17.3 million its third weekend in fourth place for a total of \$102.2 million, while their new comedy **Here Comes the Boom**, starring Kevin James, debuted in the fifth spot with \$12 million from 3,014 theaters, an average of \$3,981.

Universal's Pitch Perfect came in at No. 6 with \$9.3 million, pushing its total to \$36.1 million after three weeks. It was followed in seventh by Disney's which Frankenweenie, added \$7 million for a total of \$22 million after two weeks. Eighth place belonged to Rian Johnson's Looper, which brought in \$6.3 million and is up to \$51.4 million after three

Opening in ninth place, writer/director Martin Mc-Donagh's **Seven Psychopaths** earned \$4.3 million from 1,480 theaters, an average of \$2,889 per site. The \$15 million comedy stars Colin Farrell, Christopher Walken, Sam Rockwell, Woody Harrelson, Abbie Cornish, Tom Waits, Olga Kurylenko and Zeljko Ivanek.



Affleck film recounts Hollywood role in Iran crisis



Ben Affleck as Tony Mendez

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Actor-director Ben Affleck's latest movie tells the incredible story of Hollywood's role in an attempt to get a group of US diplomats out of Iran during the 1979 hostage crisis.

"Argo," Affleck's third film behind the camera, is set against the backdrop of the Iranian revolution and the international standoff in which 52 Americans were held in Tehran for more than a year.

The subject matter has clear topical resonance: the hostage crisis helped eject Jimmy Carter from the White House, and President Barack Obama, battling for re-election, is now facing pressure over attacks on US missions abroad

But the 40-year-old Holly-wood star says it was never his intention for the film --produced by George Clooney and out this weekend in North America, less than four weeks before the November 6 election -- to be caught up

in politics.

"It was always important to us to let the movie not be politicized. We tried to make it very factual, fact-based, because it was coming up before the election in the US, when a lot of things get politicized," he said.

The real-life story -which was classified for years, and only became public in 1997 -- starts with the US embassy in Tehran being seized by revolutionaries, who went on to hold 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

The Democratic Carter's mishandling of the crisis led to his defeat by Republican Ronald Reagan the following year.

As the mission was stormed, a handful of diplomats managed to escape through a secret exit and took refuge in the Canadian embassy. They were out of Iranian hands, but the next question was how to get them out of the country.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer Tony Mendez proposed a solution, which at first seemed farfetched, but was eventually accepted.

The idea was to mount a fictitious Hollywood science fiction movie production, ask Tehran for visas to scout for filming locations -- and then

get the diplomats out of the country disguised as film crew members.

"When I saw the script, I couldn't believe how good it was," Affleck told reporters, presenting the movie in Beverly Hills ahead of its release.

"What struck me almost right away was that we had this thriller, and in equal measure this kind of comic Hollywood satire and this really sort of intricate real-life CIA spy story, all based on truth."

Affleck plays Mendez, a real-life former spy who was heavily involved in the movie's production and even makes a brief appearance on screen.

"It was really inspiring to meet Tony. He was steeped in this movie. It was Tony's story, Tony's point of view," said Affleck.



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Healthy, tasty treats on the menu at Lecca Lecca

No foray to Oranjestad is complete without a stop to refresh and refuel at Lecca Lecca, the stylish "Gelato Shoppe" located right in the main bus terminal. This adorable eatery sports a menu that reflects the passion of its owner, Milly Lacle, for 'healthy, natural foods, for a healthy body."

The idea of a sweet treat being good for you is contrary to everything we are being a satisfying treat drastically told today, but Milly did her lower in fat, sugar and calohomework before establish- ries than traditional ice cream. ing her gelato and sorbetto factory on the second floor. nowhere else are a revelation. Her recipes come from a re- For a delightful surprise and spected gelato house in Italy, pure refreshment, sample the where they have been produc- grapefruit, passion fruit or ing the refreshing, low or no carrot sorbetto; the rich, dark, fat product since the 1800's. suger-free chocolate gelato is She continues the tradition of absolutely sinful, without the using only fresh fruit juices guilty conscience! They also and natural extracts to as fla- have a unique collection of voring.



There are absolutely no artificial colorants or preservatives in the gelato and sorbetto, which is produced children's homes Casa Cuna FRESH!

or Imeldahoff. They have over 60 flavors on their roster with 18 available at the shop each day, including at least one sugar-free and one-gluten free for those with special dietary needs. All the gelato is made from organic milk flown in from Italy, guaranteed free of steroids and antibiotics. Lecca Lecca pasteurizes the milk in their factory, to be sure there are no chemicals used in the process. The end product is whipped light and



fluffy naturally, producing

vors like grapefruit and

Unique flavors found yogurt gelatos swirled with

> fresh fruit sorbetto in delightful combinations.

Lecca Lecca offers an attractive lunch menu including quiche made with only fresh vegetables, and sandwiches on crusty bread they prepare in their own bakery. Indulge in the soup of the day for a

Fresh vegetable quiche hearty sampling of authentic Aruban cooking.

Opened Monday through Saturday from 9:30 AM until 7:00 PM; it is a must do while fresh daily; leftovers at the in Oranjestad for a refreshing end of the day are donated to treat, with the emphasis on



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and fami- lies, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service,

babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spahomes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



cious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All



Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

SPORTS

Djokovic denies Murray in Shanghai thriller



Shanghai (AFP) - Novak Djokovic gained sweet revenge for his US Open defeat to Andy Murray on Sunday, saving five match points to seal a stunning 5-7, 7-6 (13/11), 6-3 victory in the Shanghai Masters final.

The iron-willed Serbian was second-best for long stretches but refused to buckle, sealing his 13th Masters title in a contest lasting three hours and 21 minutes as he hunts down Roger Federer at the top of the rankings.

The thrilling duel, played out in front of a packed crowd at the Qi Zhong Stadium, hinged on a monster second set tie-break that lasted more than 20 minutes, which the second seed won to stay alive in the match.

The defeat, in a contest packed with high-quality, spellbinding tennis, was defending champion Murray's first ever loss at the Shanghai Masters after he won the tournament in 2010 and 2011.

I'm no mole says Real keeper Casillas

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas has described as unwarranted suggestions that he acted as a dressing room mole in an attempt to destablise coach Jose Mourinho.

"Over the past few months, without wanting it, I've been linked to a number of affairs," the veteran Real skipper wrote on his Facebook page on Sunday.

"One day they were saying I didn't encourage my Cristiano teammate Ronaldo (it's harder to find someone who admires him more than me)..., another time I'm a mole and I leak information.

"After 13 years spent in the greatest club in the world it's quite simply un-warranted."

Casillas was reacting after suggestions in the Spanish media that he had divulged team secrets to try and cause trouble for Mourinho with whom it was said the Real captain was involved in a power struggle.

On Facebook the Spain keeper wrote: "It was said 'Mou' and me couldn't stand each other (if there is someone I respect more than anyone it's my manager who has succeeded in getting Real Madrid back on the path to success)."

Armstrong could take lie test, whistleblower talks

PARIS (AFP) - Disgraced cycling icon Lance Armstrong might be prepared to take a lie detector test, his lawyer has suggested, as further damning evidence emerges of the intimidation and threats he used to cover up his alleged drug tak-

While Armstrong has refused to respond to the litany of charges against him his lawyer has raised the intriguing prospect of his client sitting a lie detector test to prove his innocence.

Tim Herman said Armstrong would consider the idea if the 26 witnesses who testified against him to the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) would do the same.

The USADA stripped Armstrong of his seven Tour de France titles and banned him from the sport for life after the organisation claimed he orchestrated the most sophisticated doping programme ever

But asked if Armstrong would take a lie detector test himself, Herman told BBC Radio Five: "We might do that, you never know. I don't know if we would or we wouldn't. We might."

Pressed on whether Armstrong had any reason not to take a test, Herman added: "Because he's moved on. His name is never going to be clear with anyone beyond what it is today.'

Lampard, Bertrand ruled out of Poland clash

LONDON (AFP) - England suffered a double blow ahead of Tuesday's World Cup qualifier against Poland after Chelsea duo Frank Lampard and Ryan Bertrand were ruled out of the trip to Warsaw.

Lampard, who has a knee injury, and Bertrand, sidelined by a throat infection, missed Friday's 5-0 victory over San Marino, but England manager Roy Hodgson was hopeful they would recover in time for the Poland clash.

But, after reporting to England's training camp on Sunday to be assessed by the medical team, it was decided that neither would be able to take part.

Lampard and Bertrand were sidelined less than 24 hours after it was confirmed Theo Walcott was ruled out of the Warsaw showdown after sustaining a chest injury in a heavy challenge with San Marino's goalkeeper Aldo Simoncini.

Park edges out Choi for Malaysia win



KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) South Korea's Park Inbee edged out defending champion and tournament leader Choi Na-Yeon in a thrilling final day Sunday at the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia to win with a 15-under 269.

The world number sixth ranked player kept her cool to become the third South Korean to win the tournament in as many years when she closed out with a four-under 67, defeating compatriot and friend Choi by two strokes overall.

Ferrari not giving up!

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PM NIGH



Ferrari team principal Stefano Domenicali vowed Sunday the Italian outfit would fight Red Bull all the way, after Sebastian Vettel (see photo) toppled Fernando Alonso in the drivers' standings.

Vettel's victory at the Korean Grand Prix saw Alonso fall to second with four races to go. Vettel's Red Bull teammate Mark Webber was sec-

and the fellow Ferrari of Felipe Massa third and fourth.

The Ferrari team boss said that "we are working day and night to succeed".

"There are four races to go at the end of a fantastic and very uncertain season. We will not let up, not even for a second, you can be sure of that," he said.





Wide receiver Torrey Smith #82 of the Baltimore Ravens catches a touchdown pass in front of cornerback Morris Claiborne #24 of the Dallas Cowboys during the second quarter at M&T Bank Stadium on October 14, 2012 in Baltimore, Maryland. Baltimore went on to win 31-29. (AFP photo)

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Eagle-eyed Lowry wins in Portugal

VILamoura, Portugal (AFP) - A spectacular 11th hole eagle helped Ireland's Shane Lowry clinch the Portugal Masters on Sunday by one shot from Ross

Lowry, lying four shots off the lead going into the closing day at the Oceanico Victoria golf course, produced his moment of magic when his approach landed a foot short of the hole and hopped in for an eagle two.

He eventually signed for a 66 for a 14-under par total of 270.

This was Lowry's second win on the European Tour, his first coming as an amateur in the 2009 Irish Open.

The 26-year-old, only the second player after Spain's Pablo Martin to win on the tour as both an amateur and a professional, said: "I cannot believe this.

"I can't explain how I feel really. It's a dream come true -

I'm over the moon.

"Everyone was referring to me as the fella who won the Irish Open as an amateur, but now I've won such a prestigious event I don't know what to say."

Lowry was still three behind at the turn, but then his luck changed with a birdie at the 10th and the eagle at the next.

"I thought then this could be my day and thankfully it is," he said.

"We had a long wait on the 12th tee which was good, I had time to compose myself."

He was one ahead with one to play, but took five on the last after driving into sand.

But Fisher, seeking his first title since his Ryder Cup debut two years ago, was unable to force a sudden death play-off, also finishing with a bogey.

The Briton came in with a 70 to take second, with 2005 US Open champion Michael Campbell of New Zealand one shot further back in third for his highest finish in four years.

Clippers beat Miami in China

SHANGHAI (AFP) - The Los Angeles Clippers used a dominant inside attack to dispatch reigning NBA champion Miami Heat 99-89 in an exhibition match Sunday in front of a sell-out crowd of 18,000 in Shanghai.

With All Star point guard Chris Paul guiding the offense, Clippers big men Eddie Jordan and Blake Griffin thrilled the crowd with dunks and alleyoop baskets as Los Angeles jumped to a first-quarter double-digit lead and maintained it for much of the match.

Jordan scored 13 of his game-high 18 points in the first quarter, while power forward Griffin scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Clippers avenged a 94-80 loss to Miami in Beijing on Thursday.

"We played with a lot more

Azarenka wins sixth season title in Linz

Linz, Austria (AFP) - World number one Victoria Azarenka on Sunday claimed her sixth title this season when she beat German Julia Goerges in straight sets at the Linz WTA tournament.

The Belarusian, in her ninth final appearance of 2012, overcame the fifth seed 6-3, 6-4 for a 14th career title.

Azarenka's 2012 trophy haul began with her first Grand Slam in Australia, with follow up victories in Sydney, Doha and Indian Wells.

But the 23-year-old then proceeded to lose the three following finals, including at last month's US Open, where Serena Williams' late recovery left her in tears, before her 6-3, 6-1 Beijing defeat of world number two Maria Sharapova.

enthusiasm tonight ... when you do that, better things happen," Clipper coach Vinny Del

Negro said.

"Blake is a huge focal point and a lot of the offense will run through him."

Miami was led by forward Rodney Carney with 15 points, while reigning NBA most-valuable-player LeBron James scored 11 points despite featuring sparingly.

Basketball is arguably the most popular sport in China and is the NBA's biggest market outside the United States.

On Wednesday, seven-time NBA all-star Tracy McGrady, announced he will play for the CBA's Qingdao Eagles during the coming season.



Yankees' captain Jeter fractures ankle in loss, out for postseason



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter screams as he injures himself fielding a ball

Derek Jeter's fractured left ankle cast a pall over two clubhouses following a draining Game 1 in the American League Championship Series on Saturday night at Yankee Stadium.

The Tigers prevailed, 6-4, in 12 innings to gain the upper hand, but there was a muted tone to their clubhouse in the afterglow.

Out of respect for Jeter, arguably the most popular guy within the players' fraternity, there was little of the upbeat talk of momentum gained heading into Game 2.

"You don't want to see the captain going down like that," said Tigers first baseman Prince Fielder. "Not only is he a great player -- he's a great guy, down to earth and humble. He forces us all to play the game the way he does, running out ground balls hard every time. He's Derek Jeter. He's the man."

Jeter, the seemingly indomitable Yankees captain, needed assistance getting off the field after collapsing to the infield dirt in the gameturning 12th inning. He fielded a ground ball by Jhonny Peralta before losing his balance and tumbling to the ground.

Elevated for 17 years by Jeter's greatness, the Yankees

have to soldier on, trying to ignore the severity of the loss.

"It's terrible," Andy Pettitte said, "but we've got a series to play, and somebody's going to have to take his spot."

Jayson Nix assumed the shortstop position, but nobody,

realistically, replaces Jeter.

Pettitte sensed it was serious as Jeter writhed in pain in the dirt and was not surprised to learn the ankle was fractured.

"For him to lay down on that field, I knew something was broke or torn," Pettitte said. When he didn't get up, I knew he was done, that he wasn't going to be able to play in the series. It's a bad loss -- the captain. Guys have got to move forward and play."

Jeter tried to jump-start the offense with a leadoff walk in the first and a single in the second, the 200th post-season hit of his career. The No. 2 man on the list, Bernie Williams, retired with 128 postseason hits.

Girardi didn't want to make light of Jeter's injury but said it could be a chance for someone else to step in and show what they can do.

"Anyone would admit we have a better chance with Jeter but sometimes one man's injury is another man's opportunity," Girardi said. "Someone has to do well with this opportunity. We have to move on. We are trying to win a series here."

Jeter's injury could open the door for Yankees' Alex Rodriguez who hasn't seen much action in the postseason.

Manager Girardi used a pinch hitter for three-time AL

MVP Rodriguez in games three and four of the first round series and benched him in favour of Eric Chavez in the crucial fifth game.

Winning Game 1 is a nice start, but the Tigers aren't taking anything for granted.

"It was important to come back after we let the lead get away, but we know it's not going to be easy" said leadoff catalyst Austin Jackson, who tripled, doubled and made a sensational catch in center field. In 42 previous ALCS matchups, the team that won Game 1 has gone on to win the pennant 25 times, a .595 winning percentage.

In postseason history, Fall

Classic included, Game 1 winners are 171-92, a .650 winning percentage.

Teams that seize the first two games are 19-3 in ALCS history.

The Yankees are 7-2 in series after losing Game 1 at home, and the Tigers are 3-0 in series after claiming Game 1 on the road.



